WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. An optical attenuator comprising:
- a holding sleeve;
- a pair of ferrules inserted into and fixed to the holding sleeve such that the ferrules oppose each other at base ends thereof at a predetermined distance between each base end; and

an attenuating fiber inserted into and fixed to the pair of ferrules such that ends of the attenuating fiber are exposed.

- 2. An optical attenuator according to Claim 1, wherein a soft resin is provided in a space between the base ends of the ferrules.
- 3. An optical attenuator according to Claim 2, wherein the soft resin comprises an elastic material including rubber or gel.
- 4. An optical attenuator according to Claim 2, wherein the soft resin comprises a filler containing a light-absorptive material.